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Resolution 1977-09-12 Bottomland Hardwoods Acquisition

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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begin in 1983; and 4. authorize the appropriation of general revenues to supplement Duck Stamp receipts;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the IAFWA strongly urges acquisition of the 1.9 million acres of wetlands through general tax revenues supplementing Duck Stamp revenues.

Resolution #8

DIE-OFFS OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

WHEREAS, at its convention in 1975 the IAFWA, noting its concern that outbreaks of disease among migratory birds had resulted in major losses and that continued shrinkage of available habitat creates the potential for an accelerating recurrency of such outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, despite substantial losses to the mid-continent population of white-fronted geese to avian cholera during 1975 and 1976 and despite the loss of nearly one-half the Atlantic Brant population during 1977 due to freeze-over of feeding areas resulting from severe weather conditions, no standby program is yet available to respond quickly to such problems of a catastrophic nature; and

WHEREAS, these losses to the resource are not inevitable and could be sharply reduced were adequate resources available to permit immediate reaction; and

WHEREAS, emergencies which occur are unpredictable but must now be coped with through budget resources earmarked to specific activities thereby forcing Federal and State agencies to a choice between reordering programs and activities, with attendant losses implicit therein, or taking no action;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the IAFWA urges Congress to empower the Secretary of the Interior to be able to declare an emergency and to obligate funds from a special funding source in order to respond to significant outbreaks of disease among migratory birds and to catastrophic conditions such as extremes of weather which result in unusual and substantial mortality among migratory birds.

Resolution #9

BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS ACQUISITION

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior is charged with the responsibility of acquiring important wetlands in order to insure the preservation of waterfowl habitat; and

WHEREAS, the lower Mississippi alluvial valley encompassing approximately 24 million acres in six Delta states (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky) is one of the most important wintering areas for mallards in the United States and probably exceeds all other similar areas in wood duck production; and

WHEREAS, the bottomland hardwoods and associated water areas play a critical role in sustaining waterfowl populations by providing resting, feeding and production areas; and

WHEREAS, less than one fourth of this important habitat now exists and the rest is now being cleared for agriculture at a rate in excess of 260,000 acres per year and most of this uncleared land will be cleared for agriculture within ten years;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies requests the Secretary of the Interior to implement

an emergency plan to purchase whatever acreage is necessary to insure the proper quality and quantity of bottomland hardwoods for the perpetuation of our present waterfowl resource.

Resolution #10

RIPARIAN AND WETLANDS HABITAT MANAGEMENT ON THE FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS, the President of the United States in his 1977 environmental message to Congress identified the importance of wetlands to flood prevention, soil and watershed protection and other public service values, and to wildlife, and affirmed a positive role of the Federal Government in stopping the losses and degradation of wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the President issued *Executive Orders* for Floodplain Management and *Protection of Wetlands* on May 24, 1977, instructing each Federal Agency to take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands as well as preserving and enhancing the beneficial values of wetlands in managing Federal lands; and

WHEREAS, riparian habitats are included within the Wetlands Executive Order by definition; and

WHEREAS, riparian wetland habitats are identified as vital in providing for a diversified production of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, riparian wetlands are identified as a unique and often scarce habitat on the Federal public lands; and

WHEREAS, many of the riparian wetland habitats on the Federal public lands within the semi-arid intermountain West have been identified as being in degraded conditions, producing wildlife far below their potential and often in danger of further degradation beyond the point of recovery;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the IAFWA strongly urges that the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service expedite the implementation of the full intent of these recent *Executive Orders* on *Wetlands* and *Floodplains* to provide protection, enhancement, and positive management for these resources on lands under their jurisdiction.

Resolution #11

ENDANGERED SPECIES COOPERATION

WHEREAS, it is impossible to achieve a positive program to conserve endangered or threatened species unless the Fish and Wildlife Service and State Wildlife Agencies become full partners dedicated to the basic goals spelled out in the *Act* and *Convention*; and

WHEREAS, the State Wildlife Agencies having to react to proposed actions published in the *Federal Register*, answer letters for State Governors, or furnish data to be analyzed without State input does not adequately address the "full partner" philosophy; and

WHEREAS, the State Wildlife Agencies collectively have the best existing wildlife data base and possess the ability to coordinate the collection of desired wildlife knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the wildlife resource is the only "loser" when needed energy is wastefully spent on jurisdictional feuding;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the IAFWA urges the USFWS and ESSA to pursue the following as evidence of their sincerity that